

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ban on Recruitment

1189. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to put a ban on the recruitment in jobs; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). Government have not issued any general orders putting a total ban on recruitment for Govt. jobs.

Coal Reserves

1190. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of the Coal reserve;

(b) whether the Government propose to streamline the marketing policy for coal, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement an effective demand-supply management with a system approach in consumption, production and movement of coal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Geological Survey of India has estimated a total of about 196

billion tonnes of coal reserves in the country as on 1.1.92.

(b) In order to streamline distribution policy of coal, periodical reviews are conducted, as and when necessary, to adjust the changing patterns of demand and supply to maximise consumers satisfaction.

(c) The existing distribution policy provides for allocation as well as movement of coal on priority to core sector industries/consumers like power, cement, steel, railways etc., on the basis of sponsorships by Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Industries, Railways etc. The demand from consumers in the non-core sector receives a lower priority. Coal is also made freely available to all consumers, 1000 tonnes at a time, on first come first served basis, from certain mines placed under 'Liberalised Sales Scheme'. Recently a decision has also been taken to release twenty million tonnes of coal from the accumulated pit-head stocks.

Decline in Production of Electronic Goods

1191. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of all type of Electronic equipments has declined in the country since last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to enhance the production of electronic equipments in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). While the total production of electronics has grown marginally by 5.5% (estimated) in terms of

value during the year 1991, there has been a decline in terms of quantity. This was mainly due to the slackness in demand for TV sets which in turn affected the demand for components. The restrictions on imports too had an adverse impact on production. As various government organisations are the major users in some of the sectors, financial constraints of the government also depressed the demand.

(c) Measures taken/initiated by the Government to give boost to the growth of Electronic industry are given in the statement below.

STATEMENT

Measures taken/initiated by the Government to give boost to the growth of electronics industry

I. General Policy and Procedural Measures:

Licensing

(a) The entire electronics industry has been exempted from the locational limitations imposed on other industries.

(b) Licensing has been abolished for all industrial undertakings including companies covered under Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) and Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) except the sub-sectors of consumer electronics and strategic electronics.

(c) The system of phased manufacturing programme (PMP) run on case by case basis has been abolished.

(d) Development of small scale industry is being encouraged. Approvals/registrations have been totally decentralised to the level of State Directorates of Industries. Investment limit for this sector has been

revised upwards to Rs.60 lakhs and that for ancillary units, to Rs. 75 lakhs.

(e) Existing units are permitted to manufacture any article without additional investment under broad-banding subject to certain conditions.

(f) Amendment to the MRTP Act has removed the threshold limit of assets in respect of MRTP companies.

Foreign Collaboration

(a) Foreign Investment-Automatic approval is accorded for direct foreign investment upto 51% foreign equity in high priority industries.

(b) Foreign Technology - Automatic permission is given for foreign technology agreements in high priority industries with certain ceiling on payments.

Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)

Automatic approvals to Non-Resident Indians and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCB) predominantly owned by NRIs for direct foreign investment upto 100% of the equity with full benefits of repatriation in high priority industries.

Import and Export Policies

(a) Access to foreign exchange for the import of capital goods, parts and components required has been provided freely through the system of partial convertibility introduced in the Budget 1992-93.

(b) Tools, Dies, moulds are available under OGL at concessional rate of customs duty.

(c) The import policy is being rationalised with a view to increasing production.

Fiscal Policies

(a) Excise duty has been reduced on the goods permitted to be sold in the domestic tariff area under the Export Processing Zones (EPZ) schemes.

(b) For component industry, the import duty on raw materials, piece parts etc. has been rationalised.

(c) Customs duty on component parts required in the manufacture of C.G., computers, telecommunications equipment etc. has been rationalised and brought down to a level of 50% (Basic and Auxiliary).

Electronic Technology Park

Government is considering a proposal to set up Electronic Technology Parks to attract major international electronic companies to establish global scale manufacturing facilities incorporating the latest technology. This will also help Indian enterprises to attain global scales of operations and thereby enhance their product and process quality and international competitiveness.

Velocity of Business

Action has been initiated for improving the 'Velocity of Business' in the Electronics industry. It aims at removing procedural bottlenecks pertaining to licensing, customs, infrastructure etc. to speed up the development of Electronics industry.

II. Policy initiatives in specific areas**1. Computer Software**

(a) Exemption has been granted under Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act on income from export of software.

(b) To encourage software exports, Software Technology Parks (STPs) as 100%

Export Oriented Units have been set up in various parts of the country.

(c) A value added data communication network is being set up to facilitate export of software to all parts of the world initially from Delhi, Bombay and Bangalore.

Computer Hardware

Programmes have been initiated for building institutional infrastructure for training scientific manpower and undertaking R&D to solve some of the industrial problem using computer technology.

III. Infrastructure and other facilities:**Applications of Electronics**

(a) Government is promoting appropriate applications of electron: to improve productivity, quality and safety.

(b) Retrofitting in industries in areas like Cement, Tea, Paper and Pulp Sugar, Textile and Power Sector with process instrumentation, technology developed under funding by Department of Electronics is being encouraged to increase the productivity, efficiency, reliability, energy conservation etc.

(c) For developing awareness of quality, a network of standardisation, testing and quality control laboratories have been set up. Some of these laboratories are authorised to test and certify for international and national quality standards. This must help in the export of electronic products.

(d) Steps are being taken to promote the use of information technology in Government Departments and services.

Technology Development and R&D :

(a) Various projects have been initiated

by the Technology Development Council, National Radar Council, National Microelectronics Council and Electronic Materials Development Council with a view to promote innovation, product design and development and technology development which are all basic for the growth of a healthy electronics industry.

(b) Various research centres and laboratories such as the Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research, National Centre for Software Technology Centre for Development of Telematics, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing Technology, Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology for Development of Material and several Electronics Research and Development Centres have been set up to carry out R&D in well identified areas which is also a measure for developing self reliant industrial base.

Cadre Structure of Scientists

1192. PROF. PREMDHUMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Science and Technology has finalised its recommendations to bring uniformity in cadre structure scientists in all the scientific departments?

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c): The cadre structure of scientists in a scientific department depends on its organisational needs. The Government, as part of its normal exercise, reviews from time to time the cadre structure with a view to rationalising it. This is a continuous process and appropriate

measures are taken, wherever necessary.

News Item Captioned "The Rich Makes a Beeline for Plots"

1193. SHRI CHHITUBHAIGAMIT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item "The rich makes a beeline for plots" appeared in the Hindustan Times of January 21, 1992; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A reported by Municipal Corporation of Delhi, action as per Delhi Municipal Corporation Act/Building Bye Laws is taken as and when unauthorised construction is detected. In Alipur area 101 cases of unauthorised construction are reported to have been booked in the past five years.

Discovery of New Coal Deposits

1194. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate coal reserves in the country at present (gradewise);

(b) whether the Government have recently discovered any new coal deposits;

(c) if so, the details of the new coal reserve areas and quantum thereof;

(d) the steps taken to develop the coal mines so far; and